

to (d). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Free Education for Girls

3179. SHRI C.P. MUDALAGIRI-YAPPA:
SHRI V. KRISHNA RAO:
SHRI KUSUMA KRISHNA MURTHY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether some States including Bihar have made education free for girls upto post-graduate level and

(b) whether such proposal would be considered at the all-India level to encourage women's education in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (PROF. M.G.K. MENON): (a) Education for girls upto Class VIII is free in all States in Government and Local Body schools. At Secondary or Higher Secondary level, all the States except Meghalaya, Punjab and Union Territory of Delhi have made education free for girls. At college/University level, education for girls is free in Bihar, Gujarat, Jammu & Kashmir, Mizoram, Nagaland, Orissa, Rajasthan and Sikkim. In Madhya Pradesh and Tamil Nadu, it is partially free.

(b) Most educational institutions receive financial grants from their respective State Governments. Since making education free for girls involves additional financial burden on State Governments, such decision has to be taken by the concerned State Government.

Software Development Through Tandem Alliance Programme

3180. SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Tandem Computers Incorporated of the United States and Wipro Information and Technology Limited have planned to jointly promote software development business for the US Company in India through Tandem alliance programme; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (PROF. M.G.K. MENON): (a) and (b). It is learnt from Wipro Information and Technology Limited about their plan with Tandem Computers Incorporated for development of Software. However, no formal proposal in this regard has been received in the Department of Electronics.

Creation of Autonomous Bodies

3181. SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARI:
SHRI PARAS RAM BHARDWAJ:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission has decided to create various autonomous bodies to assist in the planning process;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) to what extent such autonomous bodies will be beneficial for the Planning